

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are all the claims pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the rejected claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Mirabilis LTD, Quick Tour (“Quick Tour”), allegedly disclosed February 12, 1998, in view of ICQ Inc., ICQ Email Signature (“ICQ Email Signature”), allegedly disclosed May 2, 1999. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants are concurrently filing a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, as attached Appendix A, to remove ICQ Email Signature as prior art. Since Quick Tour fails to teach or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 21, 22 and 23, these claims are allowable over Quick Tour. As a result, claims 1-23 are allowable over this reference.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: April 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Sean L. Ingram
Registration No.: 48,283
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP
1600 Tysons Blvd.
McLean, Virginia 22102
703-905-2000

APPENDIX A



Application Serial No.: 09/583,734
Attorney Docket No.: 042846-0312790
Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Avner Shafrir *et al.* CONFIRMATION NO.: 2781
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/583,734 EXAMINER: Tadesse Hailu
FILING DATE: May 31, 2000 ART UNIT: 2173
FOR: COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION WITH INDICATOR OF CONCURRENT USERS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Sir:

I, Houri Avshalom, hereby declare and state:

THAT I am named as a co-inventor of the invention described by claims 1-23 of the above-identified patent application, along with the other co-inventors Avner Shafrir, Jacob Rimer, Haim Schneider, Michael Dempsey, and Paul Haverstock ;

THAT I have been employed by International Business Machines Corporation since 1997, where I hold a position as ARCHITECT;

THAT I have read the above-identified patent application as filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on May 31, 2000 which was assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/583,734 and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/137,513, which was filed on June 2, 1999;

THAT the invention was conceived and reduced to practice in the United States, a NAFTA country, or a WTO member country;

THAT, prior to May 2, 1999, we conceived the invention disclosed in the above-identified patent application; and

THAT we worked diligently from at least just prior to May 2, 1999 to June 2, 1999 to reduce the invention to practice.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.

Date: 04/28/05

Signature: 
Houri Avshalom